- 1					
1	MARY ANN SMITH Deputy Commissioner				
2	DOUĞLAS M. GOODING Assistant Chief Counsel MIRANDA LEKANDER (State Bar No. 210082) Senior Counsel				
3					
4	DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT 1515 K Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: (916) 322-8730				
5					
6	Facsimile: (916) 445-6985				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8					
9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT				
10	OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Matter of the Investment Adviser CRD No.: 269959				
13	Application of: STIPULATION				
14	BERYL CAPITAL MANAGMENT, LLC				
15					
16	This STIPULATION is entered into by and between the California Department of				
17	Business Oversight (Department) through the Commissioner of Business Oversight				
18	(Commissioner), on the one hand, and Beryl Capital Management, LLC and David Alexander				
19	Witkin (collectively, Respondents) on the other hand (hereafter, the Parties).				
20	<u>RECITALS</u>				
21	A. Beryl Capital Management, LLC (CRD No. 269959) is a Delaware limited li	ability			
22	company formed on January 2, 2013, that maintains a business address at 220 South Juanita				
23	Avenue, Suite B, Redondo Beach, California 90277.				
24	B. At all relevant times, David Alexander Witkin (Witkin) (CRD No. 4443572) is or				
25	was the manager, sole owner, and registered agent for service of process of Beryl Capital				
26	Management, LLC.				
27	C. On September 22, 2015, Beryl Capital Management, LLC filed with the				
28	Commissioner an initial Form ADV, applying for an investment adviser certificate.				

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- D. In response to the Commissioner's inquiry about possible unlicensed investment adviser activities, Respondents provided additional information disclosing that, beginning in or about June 2013 to the date hereof, Respondents conducted business as an investment adviser in this state, by providing advisory services to at least nine clients, without first applying for and securing from the Commissioner a certificate, then in effect, authorizing them to do so, in violation of Corporations Code section 25230, subdivision (a).
- E. The Commissioner has determined that the public interest will not be served by denying the request for registration submitted by Beryl Capital Management, LLC, and it is the intention and desire of the Parties to resolve this matter without the necessity of a hearing and/or other litigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, and the terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Stipulation is to settle and resolve the matters between the Parties hereto, for judicial economy and expediency, and to avoid the expense of a hearing, and possible further court proceedings.
- 2. Desist and Refrain Order: Respondents stipulate to the issuance of the Desist and Refrain Order pursuant to Corporations Code section 25532, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, directing Respondents to desist and refrain from engaging in investment adviser activities unless and until certification has been made under the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968 (CSL) or unless exempt. Respondents agree to accept service of the executed Desist and Refrain Order by the Commissioner's agent sending a copy to their counsel at thertog@investmentlawgroup.com.
- 3. Waiver of Hearing Rights. Respondents acknowledge their right to a hearing under the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968 in connection with the Desist and Refrain Order attached as Exhibit A, and hereby waive such rights to a hearing, and to any reconsideration, appeal, or other right to review which may be afforded pursuant to the CSL, the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA), the California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP), or any other

2

3

4

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

provision of law, and by waiving such rights, consent to the Commissioner's Desist and Refrain Order becoming final.

- 4. Certification. Respondents stipulate to undertake all appropriate steps designed to assure full compliance with the laws of California in connection with the licensing of Respondents' business as an investment adviser. Respondents acknowledge that failure to comply with any term of this Stipulation shall be a breach of this Stipulation and shall be cause for the Commissioner to immediately revoke any licenses held by, and/or deny any pending application(s) of Respondents, their successors and assigns, by whatever names they might be known. Respondents hereby waive any notice and hearing rights to contest such revocations and/or denial(s) which may be afforded under the CSL, the APA, the CCP, or any other provision of law in connection with this action.
- 5 Acknowledgement. Respondents acknowledge that they did not timely obtain an investor advisor certificate from the Department, or otherwise qualify for a lawful exemption, as required by Corporations Code section 25230. Although Respondents maintain such failure was neither willful nor intentional, Respondents acknowledge that such conduct was inconsistent with the provisions of the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968. The acknowledgment of Respondents is for the purposes of this and any other future proceedings that may be initiated by or brought before the Department. The Parties agree that this Stipulation and any acknowledgements hereunder shall not be admissible or binding against Respondents in any action(s) brought against Respondents by third parties who are not signatories to this Stipulation.
- 6. Administrative Penalty. Respondents agree to pay to the Commissioner an administrative penalty in the amount of \$45,000.00 (Administrative Penalty) pursuant to Corporations Code section 25532, subdivision (b), for conducting unlicensed investor adviser activity in violation of Corporations Code section 25230, subdivision (a). Such Administrative Penalty shall be paid by Respondents within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Stipulation, as such date is defined in Paragraph 21 below. The cashier's check shall be made payable to "The Department of Business Oversight," and shall be sent to the attention of the Commissioner's agent specified in Paragraph 22 below. In the event the payment due date falls on a weekend or holiday,

the payment shall be due the next business day. Respondents acknowledge that failure to timely pay the Administrative Penalty shall be a violation of this Stipulation. Respondents further agree that this Stipulation shall constitute a final decision for the purpose of the Commissioner applying ex parte to the superior court, without further notice to Respondents, for a civil judgment in the amount of the Administrative Penalty stipulated herein and procuring an order pursuant to Corporations Code section 25252, subdivision (e).

- 7. <u>Investor Adviser Certificate Application</u>. No later than 30 days after the Commissioner, in her sole discretion, has certified pursuant to Paragraph 4 that Beryl Capital Management, LLC has met all conditions to conduct business as an investment adviser, and provided that Respondents have strictly complied with the terms specified in Paragraph 6, the Commissioner will issue to Beryl Capital Management, LLC an investment adviser certificate pursuant to Corporations Code section 25230.
- 8. <u>Forfeiture of Fees</u>. Respondents forfeit the right to receive all management and/or performance fees owed to Respondents pertaining to any investment adviser services provided in this state prior to the date of issuance of an investment adviser certificate issued by the Commissioner; further, Respondents agree to disgorge and return any such fees to the principal(s) no later than 30 days from the Effective Date of this Stipulation.
- 9. Future Actions by the Commissioner. The Commissioner reserves the right to bring any future action(s) against Respondents or any of the managers, officers, directors, shareholders, or employees of Respondents for any and all unknown or future violations of the CSL. This Stipulation shall not serve to exculpate Respondents or any of the managers, officers, directors, shareholders, or employees of Respondents from liability for any and all unknown or future violations of the CSL. Respondents further agree and acknowledge that nothing in this Stipulation shall preclude the Commissioner or her agents, officers, or employees, to the extent authorized by law, from referring any evidence or information regarding this matter to any other state or federal law enforcement official, or from assisting or cooperating with regard to any investigation and/or action.

- 10. <u>Commissioner's Remedy for Violation</u>. Respondents agree that for 12 months immediately following the Effective Date of this Stipulation, if the Commissioner makes a finding that Respondent(s) has violated or is violating any provision of this Stipulation, or of the CSL, and such Respondent(s) fails to cure said violation(s) within 10 days after being provided written notice of said violation(s) by the Commissioner, the Commissioner may, in her sole discretion, immediately revoke any licenses held by, and/or deny any pending application(s) of Respondents, their successors and assigns, by whatever names they might be known. Respondents hereby waive any notice and hearing rights to contest such revocations and/or denial(s) which may be afforded under the CSL, the APA, the CCP, or any other provision of law in connection therewith.
- 11. <u>Independent Legal Advice</u>. Each of the Parties represents, warrants, and agrees that it has received or been advised to seek independent legal advice from its attorneys with respect to the advisability of executing this Stipulation.
- 12. No Other Representation. Each of the Parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Stipulation, it has relied solely on the statements set forth herein and the advice of its own counsel. Each of the Parties further represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Stipulation, it has placed no reliance on any statement, representation, or promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly set forth herein, or upon the failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement, representation or disclosure of anything whatsoever. The Parties have included this clause: (1) to preclude any claim that any party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Stipulation; and (2) to preclude the introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this Stipulation.
- 13. <u>Modifications and Qualified Integration</u>. No amendment, change or modification of this Stipulation shall be valid or binding to any extent unless it is in writing and signed by all of the parties affected by it.
- 14. <u>Full Integration</u>. This Stipulation is the final written expression and the complete and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and covenants between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all

discussions between and among the Parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with respect to the subject matter covered hereby.

- 15. No Presumption From Drafting. In that the Parties have had the opportunity to draft, review and edit the language of this Stipulation, no presumption for or against any party arising out of drafting all or any part of this Stipulation will be applied in any action relating to, connected to, or involving this Stipulation. Accordingly, the Parties waive the benefit of Civil Code section 1654 and any successor or amended statute, providing that in cases of uncertainty, language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused the uncertainty to exist.
- 16. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Stipulation may be executed in any number of counter-parts by the Parties, and when each party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart to the other party, each counterpart shall be deemed an original and taken together shall constitute one and the same Stipulation. A fax signature shall be deemed the same as an original signature.
- 17. Terms, Headings and Governing Law. All terms used, but not defined herein, shall have the meaning assigned to them by the Corporate Securities Law of 1968. The headings to the paragraphs of this Stipulation are inserted for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation of the provisions hereof. This Stipulation shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California.
- 18. <u>Authority For Settlement</u>. Each party warrants and represents that such party is fully entitled and duly authorized to enter into and deliver this Stipulation. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each party warrants and represents that it is fully entitled to enter into the covenants, and undertake the obligations set forth herein.

```
24 | / / /
25 | / / /
26 | / / /
```

27 //

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

- 19. <u>Public Record</u>. Respondents hereby acknowledge that this Stipulation and the exhibits attached hereto will be a matter of public record. Respondents further understand and agree to not make any statement or representation that is inconsistent with this Stipulation.
- 20. <u>Voluntary Agreement</u>. The Parties each represent and acknowledge that he, she or it is executing this Stipulation completely voluntarily and without any duress or undue influence of any kind from any source.
- 21. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Stipulation and the attached Desist and Refrain Order shall become effective when executed by the Commissioner or her designee and transmitted by electronic mail to Respondents' counsel at thertog@investmentlawgroup.com.
- 22. <u>Notice</u>. Any notices required under this Settlement Agreement shall be provided to each party at the following addresses:

If to Respondents to: Thomas Hertog, Compliance Director

Investment Law Group

1230 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2445

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

If to the Commissioner to: Miranda LeKander, Senior Counsel

Department of Business Oversight

1515 K Street, Suite 200

Sacramento, California 95814

//.

//,

20 | / /

21 || / / /

22 || / / /

23 || / / /

24 | | / / /

25 | / / /

26 || / / /

27 | | / / .

28 || / /

	1	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have approved and executed this Stipulation		
State of California – Department of Business Oversight	2	on the dates set forth opposite their respective signatures.		
	3			
	4	Dated: 7/12/16	JAN LYNN OWEN Commissioner of Business Oversight	
	5		Commissioner of Business Oversight	
	6	Ву:		
	7	By.	MARY ANN SMITH Deputy Commissioner	
	8		Deputy Commissioner	
	9	Dated: 7/5/16		
	10	Dated. 7/3/10	DAVID ALEXANDER WITKIN, individually and on behalf of Beryl Capital Management, LLC	
	11			
	12			
	13	APPROVED AS TO FORM:		
	14	D		
	15	ByTHOMAS HERTOG, Compliance Director INVESTMENT LAW GROUP On behalf of David Alexander Witkin and Beryl Capital Management, LLC		
	16			
	17			
	18			
	19			
	20			
	21			
	22			
	23			
	24			
	25			
	26			
	27			
	28			
		- 8 - STIPULATION		
	I	3111 (